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38. Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanyam Chetti.
39. Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu.
40. Mr. A. Harischandrudu.
41. ,, K. Kesava Ramamurti.
42. Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo.
43. Mr. N. Gajapati Raju.
44. ,, D. V. Narasimhaswami.
45. ,, R. Foulkes.
46. Mr. H. F. P. Hearson.
47. ,, C. Basu Dev.
48. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
49. Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi.
50. ,, G. Sriramulu.
51. ,, H. M. Jagannatham.
52. ,, S. N. Dorai Raja.
53. ,, G. R. Premayya.
54. Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya.

Neutral.

1. Mrs. Alamelumanga Thayaramma.
2. Mr. M. Devadasan.
3. ,, D. Thomas.
4. Rao Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi.
5. Mr. K. Pattabhiramayya.
6. Khan Bahadur T. M. Moidu Sahib Bahadur.

Ayes 30. *Noes* 54. *Neutral* 6.

The motion was lost.

(2) ILL-TREATMENT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE DEVAKOTTAI SUBDIVISION.

Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARA PANDIAN:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution that stands in my name:—

' *This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a Committee of both officials and non-officials to investigate into, and to report on, the ill-treatment of the depressed classes in the Devakottai subdivision of the Ramnad district as alleged in the memorandum submitted to Government by the President of the Ramnad District Adi-Dravida Mahajana Sabha.*'

" In moving this resolution I have to bring to the notice of this House that the social custom that prevails in this Presidency is solely responsible for the bad treatment of the members of the depressed classes which they are getting from the so-called high caste people. To eradicate this evil some honest measure both by non-officials and officials should be taken. The non-officials, specially of the southern districts, have failed to do this, and we expected that officials at least would take up this question into consideration. But they too failed in their duty even after it was brought to their notice as late as 1st October 1930, when some instances where the members of the depressed classes of a certain section in the Ramnad district were very badly treated were brought to the notice of the officials of the locality by my friends, Mr. Ramachandran and Mr. Ponnuswami Pillai, who are respectable people of the district.

" Nothing has been done till now and I do not know what has been done by the officials. No good effect has accrued. My only regret in this particular case, Sir, is that it is very unfortunate that the Kallar community should be brought into ridicule. As a matter of fact, Sir, the ill-treatment of the Adi-Dravidas has become a matter of every-day occurrence and especially is it the case in the districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly. We know that similar instances occur frequently and so we want to put an end to this sort of ill-treatment ; and my only desire is to get a committee appointed to investigate into the matter 3-45 p.m.

thoroughly and find a way out of this difficulty. If such a state of things as obtains now is to continue even after its having been brought to the notice of this hon. House, I think we will be failing in our duty to the community which forms not a negligible percentage of the population of this Presidency. In this view I move the resolution standing in my name and commend the same to the whole-hearted acceptance of the House."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Mr. President, I rise to second the motion that has been so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandian. In so doing, I think I should bring to the notice of this House certain important aspects that underlie my seconding a resolution of this nature. Sir, at a time when the political horizon is big with so many things, it is very unfortunate that things in our homeland should be so terrible. Sir, the occurrences that have been taking place in several parts of the Ramnad district have spread to the nooks and corners of the hamlets of the depressed classes and wherever I had been I found that the people were groaning under a suspicion that the future does not augur well for the depressed classes. We have received the great statesmanlike announcements of the Right hon. the Premier of Great Britain, Mr. Macdonald, and the statement made by the Viceroy of India; but, Sir, despite all this in the credulous hearts of the depressed class men, there yet lurks a suspicion that they will, in the future constitution, not enjoy the same privileges as others, may not even the very rudimentary principles of free citizenship. Fortunately, we had a telegram from one of the delegates who had been to the Round Table Conference to say that due safeguards have been made for the depressed classes in the ensuing constitution. But yet, Sir, unfortuately the existing state of affairs in this Presidency has still to be investigated very carefully. Sir, it is not only in the district of Ramnad or the three districts which my hon. Friend has mentioned that these troubles exist. In the month of June 1930, in the village of Singanallur, Coimbatore district, the so-called caste-Hindus broke open the roofs of the houses of the Adi-Dravidas at day-break and assaulted them and drove even the old and pregnant women away. Coming back to the Ramnad district, I understand that a copy of the memorandum has been made available to the Members of the House. The memorandum, as the hon. Members are aware, has been well got up by a body of depressed class members and it gives a full history as to how the depressed classes have been treated there. Sir, the depressed classes, it seems according to the view of the so-called castemen, should be relegated to utter poverty. If this poverty and ill-treatment drive them from their homes to a foreign country and if they return in a fairly affluent position, they become the object of the castemen's special detestation and hatred. For this reason, if not for any other, they are ill-treated. There have been instances in which the men have been forbidden from wearing banians or coats and the women the use of their upper cloth. Imagine the state of affairs when one community is so unfairly treated by another. What will be the state of affairs some years hence? If

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social boycott is to be practised by the higher caste men, then the depressed classes will have no place in their homes.

" As my hon. Friend, Mr. Soundara Pandian, brought to the notice of the House, one Mr. Ramachandran, not an Adi-Dravida, but a member of the Servigar community, approached the District Magistrate in the matter of the treatment accorded to the depressed classes people; and what is the result of it? Nothing has come out. Even I communicated it to the Government and so far I have heard nothing definite in the matter.

" Mr. Ramachandran who presided over an Adi-Dravida conference has sent a letter to the District Magistrate of Ramnad some eight months ago and I will read some extracts from it to the House:—

'I request that in your regime as the District Collector of Ramnad you will give all help to the down-trodden Adi-Dravidas most of whom have not felt till now the benefit of British Government but have only tasted and are tasting the bitterness of Kallars Government, Agambadiya Government, Vellambars Government, Marawa Government and Nayakars Government in the district of Ramnad'.

" So far as Adi-Dravidas are concerned most of the members belonging to these unruly communities in rural areas have ignored the existence of British Government and are treating the Adi-Dravidas as though they are their own direct subjects.

" While the conference was going on, a few misguided youths instigated, I am told, by the Brahman Police of Aruppukkottai attempted to cause disturbance outside the conference pandal. The police failed to give the necessary help though the Police Circle Inspector was requested by means of a petition to give bandobast.

" After the conference was over and when the temperance lorry was taken from the conference pandal to the travellers' bungalow an unruly crowd was jeering at the lorry and throwing sand and the Aruppukkottai Police were conniving at this. I am credibly informed that at Aruppukkottai the persons who oppose the uplift of the Adi-Dravidas are chiefly Brahman officials including teachers, clerks, etc., and a few misguided non-Brahmans. They even go to the extent of instigating Congress people to cause disturbance by counter-demonstrations like the one we had on the 20th instant.

" I may be permitted also to bring to your notice that in the Police lines in Aruppukkottai there is an acute controversy as regards the question of untouchability. There is a head constable belonging to the Adi-Dravida caste living in the Police lines; he is not allowed to draw water from the well attached to the Police lines and the Brahman circle inspector and sub-inspector who are Varnashramadharmites have not yet solved the problem. It is not to their caste interest to solve the problem. The above are some of the difficulties to which the depressed classes have been put and if I am to recount the ill-treatment they are subject to, I fear I may tire your patience. To-day I must sound a note of warning to such communities who are responsible for such acts of treatment that there is an awakening among the depressed classes and that if they should begin to retort it will not be easy to control them, nay they will land the country in great distress.

"The Adi-Dravidas as agricultural labourers who are responsible for raising the main crops of the soil should be treated in a manner worthy of their hard soil in the hot sun and the pouring rain.

"Take the constitution of any land. I do not think there is any such hereditary bondsmanship as is practised in this country on the authority of some unknown and unwritten laws. Those of you who know the constitution set up for Ireland will agree with me that all subjects there are equal before law and possess equal civic rights. After the emancipation of the Negroes in America, laws were passed safeguarding the civic rights of all people.

"The soical boycott practised by these so-called higher caste men in Ramnad is so great that the people belonging to the depressed communities seem to have no place in the Hindu fold.

"Imagine that the Adi-Dravidas shall not wear gold or silver ornaments but should wear only dress prescribed by some high caste men. Even trimming and croping the air should receive the divine sanction of the higher caste men. Is this ordained in the code of Manu? There can be no greater shame cast on such people responsible for such mean acts preventing the every elementary observance of civilization by their own countrymen than this.

"Turning to historical events I understand that some years back when there was a disturbance in Ramnad the local authorities were unable to bring peace and Colonel Lawrence had to be deputed for this special work and he was able to bring peace there. To-day Colonel Lawrence is called Saint Lawrence in Ramnad district.

"Due to constant trouble caused by the Nattars, I understand that about 2,000 families of Kallars had to be deported by the former Raja of Ramnad to the Islands of Rameswaram. This being the general condition of the depressed classes, this resolution asks for a very moderate demand of appointing a small committee to thoroughly go into the matter and I am sure that the hon. Home Member who has been showing sympathy towards the depressed classes will accept this resolution. Let this serve as an eye-opener to the rest of the district and let all those who have been professing much sympathy for the depressed classes and great interest in their welfare, give practical proof of their good intention and rise to the occasion."

* Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move the following amendment standing in my name:—

'*After the word "Government" insert "to make an immediate inquiry and if necessary".*'

"The object of my amendment is to expedite matters. The grievances complained of are of a serious nature and they have been continuing for a very long time and it is but proper that immediate steps should be taken to put an end to the tyrannies perpetrated on poor defenceless people. The local authorities as well as the Government have been negligent and indifferent in this matter. So I think that an immediate

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enquiry should be made first by the Government and then if necessary a committee may be appointed to make a report on this matter."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Sir, I second the motion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It has been moved and seconded that:

'*After the word " Government " insert the words " to make an immediate inquiry and if necessary ".*'

" The resolution as proposed to be amended will read thus:

'This Council recommends to the Government to make an immediate inquiry and if necessary to appoint a committee of both officials and non-officials to investigate into and report on the ill-treatment of the depressed classes in the Devakottai subdivision of the Ramnad district as alleged in the memorandum submitted to Government by the President of the Ramnad District Adi-Dravida Mahajana Sabha.'

" Both the resolution and the amendment are for the discussion of the House."

* Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" Sir, as the only representative of the Kallar community and knowing as I do that I am in the glorious minority of one and knowing as I do that I have not even quarter as much influence with the powers-that-be as the self constituted champion of the Adi-Dravida community, the hon. the Mover, still in the interest of fair-play and justice I must emphatically protest against the way in which my community has been vilified. Sir, I am the real friend of the Adi-Dravida community. We were the first amongst the aristocratic families in the whole of India who employed Adi-Dravidas as personal servants, a practice which we still continue and will ever be continued. Supposing I am enabled to stand as their candidate in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura, I challenge anyone here to oppose me. They dare not, Sir, I will be the last man to condemn faults and if a community is at fault I will be the first to condemn it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The discussion on this resolution will be resumed on the next non-official day. The adjournment motion will now be taken up."

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *re* LATHI CHARGE BY THE POLICE IN GODOWN STREET, MADRAS—*cont.*

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move— 4 p.m.

'*that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the needless and severe lathi charge and beating by the police on the afternoon of the 28th instant in the Godown Street, Madras, of Messrs. K. Bashyam, Advocate, V. A. Sundaram and others.*'

" In making this motion I beg your leave to present this petition signed by the piecegoods merchants of Godown street, more than 100 in number. I further request you to have this petition read out to the Council by the Secretary."